

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 04057 071141Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 CAB-02 COME-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-02 SY-05
NEAE-00 SAA-01 SES-02 IO-13 HA-05 ACDA-12 TRSE-00
ICAE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 SVC-00 /116 W
-----130852 071157Z /44-41

O R 071055Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1289
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL MADRAS
USUN NEW YORK 863
DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 4057

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, CE
SUBJECT: EXPLOSION ABOARD AIR CEYLON AIRCRAFT

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ON MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 7, THE DAY
NEW CONSTITUTION WAS PROCLAIMED, THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION
ON AIR CEYLON'S COLOMBO/JAFFNA AIRPLANE. PLANE WAS ON THE
GROUND AT COLOMBO DOMESTIC RATMALANA AIRPORT AFTER COMPLETING
FLIGHT FROM JAFFNA. EXPLOSION OCCURRED APPROXIMATELY TEN
MINUTES AFTER PASSENGERS HAD DISEMBARKED. NO PASSENGERS
OR CREW WERE ABOARD AND THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES. NO
AMERICANS WERE INVOLVED. AIRCRAFT REPORTEDLY WAS DESTROYED.
INCIDENT WAS CARRIED ON DOMESTIC NEWS BROADCAST. END
UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LOU. AMBASSADOR RECEIVED DOCUMENT PURPORTING TO
BE FROM "LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EALAM" CLAIMING
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LIBERATION TIGER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOMBING.
STATEMENT WAS APPARENTLY HAND DELIVERED TO EMBASSY
AFTER EXPLOSION HAD OCCURRED. WE HAVE SENT COPY TO
FOREIGN MINISTRY.

3. TEXT OF STATEMENT: "A LIBERATED THAMIL STATE OF
EALAM' IS THE MAIN OBJECTIVE AND SACRED MISSION OF OUR

ORGANIZATION, THE LIBERATION TIGERS OF THAMIL EALAM, AND NOTHING LESS. LET THIS 'BLOWING UP OF THE AIRCRAFT' SERVE AS A LESSON FOR ALL THE AGRESSORS WHO ARE UNDER THE ILLUSION THAT THEY CAN BARTER OUR IDEAL OR ARREST OUR STRUGGLE BY DOING OUR CONCESSIONS, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE.

"WE ARE FULLY AWARE THAT WE CANNOT ATTAIN THE INDEPENDENT THAMIL EALAM THROUGH 'BLOWING UP THE AIRCRAFT' ALONE, BUT LET US DECLARE TO THE WORLD CLEARLY THROUGH THIS MOVE, THAT THE THAMIL NATION HAS NOT ATTAINED FREEDOM BY THE PROMULGATION OF THIS NEW CONSTITUTION, WHICH IS BUT A WHIMSICALLY CHANGEABLE, WHITEWASHED CHARTER OF SLAVERY FOR US, OSTENSIBLLY CONTAINING QUESTIONABLE CONCESSIONS. "NO OTHER INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN LIBERATION TIGERS OF THAMIL EALAM HAS THE RIGHT TO CLAIM THIS MOVE. SGD. K. UMAMAHESWARAN,CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL COMMITTEE." END STATEMENT.

4. THIS IS FIRST ACTION BY LIBERATION TIGERS SINCE ORGANIZATION WAS PROSCRIBED IN MAY 1978. IT COMES

AT A TIME WHEN BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND TULF LEADERSHIP HAVE BEEN WORKING TOWARD ACCOMMODATION THAT MIGHT DEFUSE COMMUNAL ISSUE. BOMBING REFLECTS ATTITUDE OF SMALL MILITANT TAMIL MINORITY THAT DEMANDS A SEPARATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAMIL STATE AND DOES NOT REFLECT ATTITUDES OF MOST TAMILS. NEVERTHELESS, SINHALESE RESENTMENT AGAINST TAMILS HAS BEEN BUILDING UP BECAUSE OF APPARENT TULF INTRANSIGENCE IN NOT ACCEPTING WHAT IS BEING OFFERED BY JAYEWARDENE GOVERNMENT.

5. WE WILL REPORT ANY SIGNIFICANT RESULTS OF POLICE INVESTIGATION. END LOU.

6. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. AFTER DRAFTING FOREGOING, WE RECEIVED SEPT. 7 AFTERNOON "CEYLON OBSERVER" WITH FOLLOWING VERSION OF INCIDENT: "AVRO CATCHES FIRE. AIR CEYLON'S AVRO CAUGHT FIRE THIS MORNING AT THE RATMALANA AIRPORT WHERE IT WAS PARKED AFTER ARRIVING FROM JAFFNA.

"IT'S A COMPLETE WRITE-OFF", A CIVIL AVIATION SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

"THE AUTHORITIES ARE INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE.AT 9:30 A.M. TODAY THE HEAD WAS TOO OVERPOWERING FOR INVESTIGATORS TO APPROACH THE BURNED OUT SHELL.

"OFFICIAL SOURCES SAID THAT THE FIRE OCCURRED AROUND 8:30

A.M TODAY. THERE WAS NO EXPLOSION.

"AS THE RATMALANA AIRPORT FIRE BRIGADE WAS UNABLE TO COPE
WITH THE FIRE, ASSISTANCE WAS RUSHED FROM COLOMBO.

"NOBODY WAS INJURED." END OF STATED. END OF LOU.

WRIGGINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, BOMBING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780994/aaaadadh.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PINS, CE
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